

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

for NLCA Reopening Plan

Health and Safety-

Q: What does “reopening our schools” really mean?

A: Gathering as a school community is an integral part of NLCA’s education. Our plan is to reopen our school building to students this fall. This means that all students are welcome to return to classes for face-to-face instruction. We have developed an in-depth plan that addresses numerous aspects of the reopening process and how schools will function once reopened.

Q: Will students be safe when school is reopened?

A: Safety is always a top priority at NLCA. In constructing our reopening plan, we have closely studied guidance from federal and state authorities.

Q: Who decides when a school has met the requirements to reopen? When will this happen?

A: Our plan includes specific requirements from the State that schools must meet in order to reopen. Schools must complete a checklist and submit it to the State for review.

Q: Will all students be allowed to return to school at the same time?

A: Yes. Our plan provides for the return of all school students for full-day instruction.

Q: Will students and Staff need to wear masks at school?

A: Yes. As per current directives of the State, all 6-12 students will need to wear masks while at school. Masks may be removed for brief periods of time under certain circumstances (such as outdoor play or lunch).

However, due to our small class sizes, we are waiting to hear if grades 6-12 remained in a classroom and teacher rotated, masks may not be required for students.

All students in grades kindergarten through 5 will not be required to wear facial coverings in their classrooms, unless (1) students do not remain with their cohort class throughout the school day and (2) come into close contact with students in another class.

Preschool students are not required to wear facial coverings.

All staff will wear facial coverings when in classrooms, except (1) during meals and (2) unless face coverings cannot be medically tolerated as documented through written and signed verification by a physician.

Q: Do I need to purchase masks for my child?

A: Yes. We are asking all parents to purchase masks for their child. Parents may opt to buy disposable or reusable masks. For disposable masks, each mask must be thrown away at the end of every school day and parents should send plenty of extra masks to school with their child. For reusable masks, masks should be cleaned after every use and students should send at least one extra reusable mask to school.

Q: Can face shields be used instead of masks?

A: No, not in Phase 4.

Q: Will teachers teach children how to use masks?

A: Yes. We know that students will need training to learn how to properly wear masks. We will spend time at the beginning of the year helping children learn how to safely keep masks in place.

Q: Will students be required to physically distance at school?

A: When students are with their class or cohort, they should remain as far apart as possible, but do not need to keep at least six feet apart.

Q: Should I take my child's temperature every day before school?

A: Yes. A high fever is a key symptom of COVID-19. Parents should take their child's temperature every day before their child is taken to school. If your child has a fever of over 100.4°F, your child should be kept home from school. You should contact your child's doctor and the school's main office. Similarly, you should ask your child if he/she has any of the other symptoms of COVID-19, such as a sore throat, coughing, or nausea. If your child complains of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home and contact your doctor and the school office.

Q: How will drop off and pick-up be handled?

A: Our goal of practicing appropriate social distancing begins at the front doors. Teachers will be on duty beginning at 7:30 AM, as students enter through the main front doors (exception: Preschool). Students will be screened (if appropriate) and sent to their homeroom classroom. There will be no waiting in the multi-purpose room for the 7:50 AM bell. Front doors will be locked at 8:00 AM (per our safety protocol) and all students arriving late will stop at the *Good Morning Kiosk* to sign-in and be screened (if appropriate). Parents are not allowed past the *Good Morning Kiosk* (exception: Kindergarten parents the first week of school). If parents have business in the school office, they will be screened at the Kiosk (during first hour), before going into the office.

Parents/visitors are not permitted in hallways/classrooms during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All teachers (not on assigned morning duty) will be on duty in the morning AND afternoon as hall/classroom monitors.

Due to our inability to provide for increased spacing between students at dismissal, masks are optional (per parent) at elementary end of day dismissal (pick-up). Elementary dismissal will be at the east end of the building.

If a student has a temperature above 100.4°F or complains of other COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be immediately sent to a quarantine room.

Q: What does the plan say about safety and cleanliness requirements for school buildings?

A: Our plan includes very specific requirements for the ongoing cleaning and sanitizing of our school building. Generally speaking, buildings will be cleaned very frequently, with a particular focus on high-traffic areas and

common surfaces. Windows and/or vents should be opened to maximize air flow. Barriers will be installed in main office areas.

Q: How will lunch take place when school reopens?

A: The lunchroom will be closed for seating. Students will eat lunch in the classroom with the classroom seating modifications. Limited lunch/snack menu will be available.

Q: What about recess?

A: Schools may still conduct recess, but schools must fulfill defined safety requirements. Students will be encouraged to play in open spaces. If appropriate, playground equipment will be sanitized daily.

Q: Can I still volunteer at school?

A: We will minimize the number of volunteers this year in an effort to mitigate risk.

Q: My child and/or another member of my household is in an at-risk group for COVID-19. Should I send my child to school?

A: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has defined conditions in which certain people may be more at risk for severe illness through COVID-19. If your child or another member of your household is in an at-risk group, we encourage you to speak to your doctor. Ultimately you should decide whether it is safe for your child to attend school. NLCA will offer at home/online teaching for these students.

Q: Is it okay for my family to travel out of town during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: We recommend that you not travel out of town during the current pandemic. However, if travel is necessary, we encourage you to become familiar with the CDC's Travel Guidelines. If you or a member of your household travels to another country or to a state identified by the CDC as having a surge in COVID-19 cases, we may ask you to wait for 14 days until returning your child to school.

Q: What happens if there is a COVID-19 surge in S.E. Michigan and the state imposes more restrictions on schools?

A: If a COVID-19 surge occurs, we will work closely with state officials to determine whether we can continue face-to-face instruction (even on an alternate schedule). If necessary, we will return to at-home virtual instruction.

Infection Protocols-

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified several symptoms of COVID-19, including high fever (above 100.4°F), sore throat, coughing, nausea, headache, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, fatigue, diarrhea and difficulty breathing.

Q: What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

A: If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19, you should contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a COVID-19 test. You should alert the school's main office and not send your child to school.

If the symptoms occur during the school day, your child will be immediately sent to the office and you will be contacted to pick your child up from school.

Q: My child had COVID-19-like symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19. When can he/she return to school?

A: If your child does not have COVID-19, but has another illness, you should keep your child home until the illness' symptoms disappear.

Q: What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: You should immediately contact your doctor for additional instructions. You should also contact the school's main office. You should not send your child to school.

Q: When can a student return to school after receiving a positive COVID-19 test?

A: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student must isolate and not return to school until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation. This includes:

1. Three or more days without a high fever.
2. A major reduction of other COVID symptoms.
3. At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Q: What should I do if a member of my household (who is not my child) tests positive for COVID-19?

A: You should immediately contact the school's main office. We will ask that you keep your child home for at least 14 days. If your family member recovers from COVID-19 (through meeting the criteria in the previous question) AND your child shows no COVID-19 symptoms for the 14-day period, your child is able to return.

Q: What happens if my child's teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Should any employee have COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the same protocols used for students (see above). If your child's teacher becomes sick and is unable to work, the school will provide a substitute teacher.

Q: What happens if another student in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Your school will make all parents aware that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. All students in the class will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If more than one student tests positive for COVID-19, it is likely that the entire class will be isolated (sent home) for at least 14 days. Students will be allowed to complete work virtually while the class is away from school.

Q: Could my child's school building be closed down due to COVID-19 this year?

A: We will do our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the coming year. However, if numerous cases appear, resulting in the isolation of multiple classes, in coordination with the SCC Health Department,

we may need to close the school building and transition all students to virtual learning for a time. Parents will be updated regularly should that need arise.

Academics and Programming-

Q: Will my child's curriculum be changed this year?

A: NLCA will continue to use excellent curriculum to instruct our students. The implementation of safety and health requirements (outlined earlier in this FAQ) will create new complexities in instruction, but our commitment remains to provide your child the best possible faith-based education.

Q: Will my child's classroom look different?

A: We have instructed teachers to spread out desks and tables in classrooms as much as possible. In order to maximize floorspace, we've asked teachers to remove non-essential furniture and other items. We have also asked if at all possible, desks and tables be arranged so that they face the front of the room. These steps were taken to minimize risk of any infection in the classroom.

Q: Will students share school supplies?

A: No. We are asking that students not share school supplies (e.g., books, crayons, technology, etc.), including such subjects as art and music. Exceptions may be made for activities outdoors (such as outdoor physical education classes). If it is impossible to avoid sharing supplies, such as computers in a computer lab, such supplies will be cleaned after every use.

Q: Will schools still offer classes in special subject areas (e.g., art, music, PE, etc.)?

A: Yes. These classes are an integral part of the learning experience, and will be held with appropriate social distancing and sanitizing of equipment.

Q: Will students participate in field trips?

A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools will not participate in in-person field trips while in Phase 4.

Q: I need to meet with a teacher or my school principal. Can these meetings occur?

A: Yes. These meetings can take place virtually via phone or video chat.

Q: Will Chapels still take place?

A: For chapels and assemblies, students will sit in every other seat, and/or the services will be delivered online in a manner that facilitates viewing for the distance learning students.

Q: How will extracurricular activities be impacted this year?

A: Our plan provides guidance on specific extracurricular activities. Highlights of this guidance include (by activity):

- **Athletics:** We are awaiting further information from the state regarding athletics. More information will be provided to parents as it is known.

- **Choir, Drama/School Play, Christmas Program:** Due to ongoing health concerns, we are not certain how or if these programs will happen this year.
- **Other Activities:** For other activities (e.g., robotics, etc.), schools must meet specific health and safety requirements. If such requirements cannot be met, these activities should be conducted virtually or canceled.

Tuition and Fees-

Q: Will the school still collect tuition this year?

A: Yes. While this school year may look different, our school will continue to provide a rigorous academic experience while supporting the moral and spiritual development of each student. NLCA depends upon tuition revenue to pay our employees who do this work and support other school-related expenses.

Q: I am having difficulty paying tuition, as my own workplace has been impacted by COVID-19. What do I do?

A: We know that some families may have difficulties paying tuition due to the loss of pay during workplace closures and are ready to support those in need of assistance. If this is happening to you, please contact the financial office. We understand your situation and will do our very best to work with you.